

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

As a result of this amendment, allowed claims 1-25, 27, 28 and 31 remain in this application.

In the detailed review following allowance of the claims in this application, Applicants spotted a number of minor errors in the claims and these errors have been corrected by the above amendment. Additionally, Applicants became aware of a number of prior art references cited in conjunction with a corresponding Japanese application and those references are submitted for consideration in the separately attached Information Disclosure Statement. Consideration of those references and return of the initialed and dated PTO Form 1449 is respectfully requested.

In order to facilitate entry of this amendment and consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants file concurrently herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

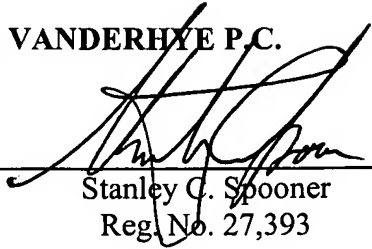
Having responded to all potential objections, it is submitted that claims 1-25, 27, 28 and 31 are allowed and any future rejection is respectfully traversed. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate and expedite issuance of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

WESTCOTT  
Appl. No. 10/500,639  
July 31, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHIE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Stanley C. Spooner  
Reg. No. 27,393

SCS:kmm  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100